

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Wage-hour Bill Cleared by Congress, Signed by President

The conference report on the wage-hour bill, H.R. 3935, was adopted by the House and Senate May 3 and signed by the President May 5 as P.L. 87-30. The bill does not affect in any way the exemptions presently available to fruit, vegetable, and fish canners.

The conference report provides for an increase in the statutory minimum wage for presently-covered employees to \$1.15 an hour 120 days following the President's signature and to \$1.25 two years later.

The conference report contains the provision requiring the Secretary of Labor to study the agricultural exemptions and to report to Congress next January, with his "recommendations for further legislation designed to simplify and remove the inequities in the application of such exemptions."

N.C.A. Urges More Research on Fruits and Vegetables

Testimony on requested appropriations for the USDA for fiscal year 1962 was presented by the N.C.A. on May 2 to a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

The N.C.A. did not ask for an increase in the Administration's budget request. It recommended, instead, that larger sums of money be allocated within the USDA's Agricultural Research Service for research on the problems of fruit and vegetable production.

Specifically, the Association cited the need for intensification of fundamental research on the mechanization of production, harvesting and handling to lower the cost of production to the grower, as well as research on the breeding of vegetables better adapted to such mechanization.

More USDA funds should be allotted for research to help find and develop sources of disease-resistant germ plasma for fruit and vegetable crops, the N.C.A. stated. One of the major problems affecting all fruit growers in the United States, it noted, is that of virus diseases which, in many cases, are carried in the stocks on which fruits are propagated. It cited

N.C.A. Opposes Attempt to Extend Marketing Orders to Canning Crops

A strongly worded request that canning crops be exempted from the marketing order, marketing quota, and price support provisions of the Administration's omnibus farm bill, H. R. 6400, was presented to the House Agriculture Committee on May 5 by representatives of the N.C.A.

The N.C.A. presentation was made by Norman W. Merrill of Blue Lake Packers, Inc., Salem, Ore., and Edwin C. Kraus of the Big Stone Canning Co., Ortonville, Minn. Also, the N.C.A. presented to the Committee a detailed statement of its opposition to the authorization of marketing order controls for canning crops.

Mr. Merrill told the Committee that "we vigorously oppose the extension of compulsory (federal) marketing orders and production allotments to all canning crops."

"This legislation is both unnecessary and undesirable for canning crops because there has been and now is a successful farm program in operation for those crops," Mr. Merrill said. The voluntary relationship that now exists between canners and the growers of their raw products is an effective program which benefits the farmer, the canner, and the consumer, he explained.

"What is authorized in the bill would disrupt this effective operation of our segment of agriculture," Mr. Merrill claimed.

"Canning—and the markets it provides for canning crops—is a unique part of our agriculture," he reminded the Committee. "You cannot—and you should not—authorize the broad-scale controls sought in this bill. If you do, you will stifle both grower and canner—and injure the consumer."

"Canning gives the consumer, along with built-in maid service, a fully balanced diet the year around. Canning gives the grower of seasonal fruits and vegetables a 12-month market instead of a short and hazardous seasonal market."

"No farmer is required to grow canning crops," Mr. Merrill noted. "The price offered for them must be competitive, both with respect to other crops and to the prices offered by competing canners."

"The farmer is not required to make

particularly the severe losses suffered by pear growers in the Northwest and in California from pear decline. Rootstock and virus diseases which plague cherry growers in Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, and the Far West were also given as examples of problems requiring more investigation.

Witnesses who appeared for the N.C.A. were Edwin C. Kraus, president, Big Stone Canning Co., Ortonville, Minn.; W. Ennis Parker, president, Pomona Products Co., Griffin, Ga.; Wilkie W. Hunt, vice president in charge of production, National Fruit Product Co., Winchester, Va.

N.C.A. Research Program on Solid Waste Disposal

The N.C.A. Berkeley Laboratory, in cooperation with the University of California Field Experiment Station and the Canners League of California, will conduct a research program this year to determine the feasibility of composting solid cannery waste.

The disposal of solid cannery waste is becoming an increasingly serious problem to canners everywhere and particularly in metropolitan areas. Land disposal involves long hauls and odor and fly nuisances, and drying for cattle feed holds out little hope because of buyers' increasing demands for certified residue-free material.

In the San Francisco Bay area canners are being compelled to barge their waste out to sea at considerable cost because of the absence of any known disposal method which would be acceptable to the regulatory agencies and reasonable in cost.

an investment on canning crops other than his labor and the use of his land. Often the canner supplies the specialized machinery, the seed, and sometimes assists in the harvesting of the crop. Once the crop is harvested and delivered to the canner, the grower gets his money and runs no further risks. The canner has the major investment. The canner runs all the risks of marketing the canned product.

"What has that system produced over the years for both the farmer and the consumer?" Since 1934—the year in which marketing order controls of canning crops were first suggested and rejected by the Congress—the per capita consumption of canned foods has increased from about 35 to 107 pounds per year. The markets developed for canned fruits and vegetables during that period have far outstripped the growth in population.

"The growth of the canning industry has meant the opening-up and development of vast new canning areas in many states. This has offered to farmers in these areas the opportunities for new cash crops. All of this has happened without compulsory marketing controls. This expansion of markets for canned foods has been accomplished at the same time the price of canned foods has been kept well below the average price of all other foods. At the same time, prices paid to farmers have been far better than those in other segments of agriculture.

"This performance has not cost the taxpayer a cent. None of the billions of dollars in payments or storage costs have gone for canning crops. All of this has happened in the 25 years since Congress first rejected the request that the control of the canning industry be put in other people's hands—and instead permitted us to do our own effective job.

"Compulsory marketing orders with production allotments or marketing quotas are not needed for canning crops. They will not improve the income or the position of the producer. There is not a single proven example of a mandatory (federal) marketing order that has been successful.

"We do not believe the 'blank check' which this bill provides for the complete control of our raw materials—for the complete dictation of the volume that we may pack or with whom we may contract for its growing—for programs in which we will have no voice—for the creation of unnecessary and costly controls for which either we or the consumer must pay

—is either necessary or will benefit anyone."

Mr. Kraus charged in his statement that the bill would authorize controls on both growers and canners "that cannot be matched in either Russian or Chinese communal farming."

The national marketing orders authorized by this legislation, he explained, "will tell each grower how much he may grow, or contract to grow, for each canner—and what and how much each canner may buy from each grower.

"The bill authorizes compulsory marketing order control for any canning commodity, either regionally or nationally. The canned product is not covered but, practically, that makes no difference. In its effect on the canner, it is the difference between authorizing some outsider to choke him to death and putting him in a room and cutting off the air supply.

"The marketing order applies to the canner. He is subject to the penalties and forfeitures in his buying of the canning crop. Only if the compulsory marketing order includes production allotments does it apply to the grower, and then only on the allotment."

Some of the provisions that could go into a compulsory marketing order under this legislation are:

Restrictions on the total quantity of a commodity which a canner may buy and can.

Restrictions on "any grade, quality, or size" which he may buy or can.

Restrictions on the amount, grade, and quality which may be canned, frozen or shipped to the fresh market.

Inspection systems for all crops as they come into the canner.

"If production allotments were included, all of these would apply at both ends: on the canner and on every grower with whom he deals.

"These controls are not adapted to canning crops. History proves they do not work. They are not necessary.

"In none of this does the canner have any voice. He can't vote—only the growers. All he can do is obey and pay the cost of the program.

"Furthermore, the canner would have no representation on the control agency which would run the marketing order: to decide how much goes to canning, freezing or to fresh market; who cans what; how much gets diverted; what is to be advertised or researched.

"This is not 'self help.' It is destruction. It is a private 'tax with-

out representation' on the canner who bears the marketing risk, contributes the bulk of the value, and must market the canned product.

"Control of the canner's raw material is control of his operations. These controls are unnecessary for canning crops, they are undemocratic, and they will take the control of canning out of the hands of canners and put it elsewhere," Mr. Kraus concluded.

The House Agriculture Committee's hearings on Title I of H.R. 6400 were concluded on May 5. The Senate Agriculture Committee on May 3 began hearings on S. 1643, a companion bill. The N.C.A. is scheduled to testify on May 17.

Spinach Hybrid Released

Parent seed stock of Savoy Hybrid 612, a new hybrid spinach with resistance to both blight and blue mold disease, has been released by the USDA and the Arkansas and Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Developed for fall and winter spinach production through cooperative research by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the Arkansas and Texas Stations, the new disease-resistant hybrid is particularly well suited for machine harvesting because of its upright growth.

The female or seed parent of this hybrid is 224 x 223, a Savoy spinach (variety with wrinkled leaves) of the Dixie Market type, which is highly resistant to blue mold. The male parent, spinach line 214, has high resistance to blight (cucumber mosaic). Although the new variety has resistance to both blue mold and blight, some hybrid plants may show symptoms of these diseases under epidemic conditions.

Savoy Hybrid 612 has fully savoyed, dark green leaves and develops quickly. Because it bolts (produces seed stalks) easily, it is unsuitable for spring production where long-standing character is needed.

As a fall crop, the new hybrid showed excellent freezing and fresh-shipping characteristics in commercial tests in New Jersey, the Arkansas River Valley of Arkansas, and southern Texas.

Seed of each parent of Savoy Hybrid 612 has been released to spinach seed producers and breeders. Limited amounts of hybrid seed will be available to growers this fall. No seed will be distributed by USDA.

FDA Order Amending Standard for Canned Sweet Potatoes

The FDA published in the *Federal Register* of April 29 an order amending the standard of identity for canned sweet potatoes to permit the use of corn sirup, dried corn sirup, glucose sirup, and dried glucose sirup as seasoning.

Following is the text of the FDA order as published in the *Federal Register* of April 29:

Title 21—FOOD AND DRUGS

Chapter I—Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

SUBCHAPTER B—FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTS

PART 51—CANNED VEGETABLES; DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS OF IDENTITY; QUALITY; AND FILL OF CONTAINER

CANNED SWEETPOTATOES; AMENDMENT OF STANDARD OF IDENTITY

In the matter of amending the standard of identity for canned vegetables other than those specifically regulated:

A notice of proposed rule making was published in the *Federal Register* of May 18, 1960 (25 F.R. 4393), setting forth a proposal by the Corn Industries Research Foundation, Inc., 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, D.C., to amend the definition and standard of identity for canned vegetables other than those specifically regulated so as to provide that corn sirup, dried corn sirup, glucose sirup, and dried glucose sirup may be used to season canned sweetpotatoes, in forms other than mashed. The notice invited interested persons to submit views and comments on the proposal.

Upon consideration of the views and comments submitted and other relevant information available, it is concluded that it will promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers to amend the definition and

standard of identity for canned vegetables other than those specifically regulated (21 CFR 51.990) as hereinafter set forth. Therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (secs. 401, 701, 52 Stat. 1046, 1055, as amended 70 Stat. 919, 72 Stat. 948; 21 U.S.C. 341, 371) and delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs by the Secretary (25 F.R. 8625): *It is ordered*, That § 51.990(c) be amended by adding thereto a new subparagraph (9) as follows:

§ 51.990 Canned vegetables other than those specifically regulated; identity; label statement of optional ingredients.

(c) * * *

(9) In the case of canned sweetpotatoes, in forms other than mashed, corn sirup, dried corn sirup, glucose sirup, dried glucose sirup, any combination thereof, or any combination of one or more such sirups or dried sirups with sugar or dextrose or both may be added in a quantity sufficient to season the food.

Any person who will be adversely affected by the foregoing order may at

any time prior to the thirtieth day from the date of its publication in the *Federal Register* file with the Hearing Clerk, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Room 5440, 230 Independence Avenue SW., Washington 25, D.C., written objections thereto. Objections shall show wherein the person filing will be adversely affected by the provisions of the order deemed objectionable and the grounds for the objections. If a hearing is requested, the objections must state the issues for the hearing, and such objections must be supported by grounds legally sufficient to justify the relief sought. Objections may be accompanied by memorandum or brief in support thereof. All documents shall be filed in quintuplicate.

Effective date. This order shall become effective 60 days from the date of its publication in the *Federal Register*, except as to any provisions that may be stayed by the filing of proper objections. Notice of the filing of objections or lack thereof will be announced by publication in the *Federal Register*.

(Secs. 401, 701, 52 Stat. 1046, 1055, as amended 70 Stat. 919, 72 Stat. 948; 21 U.S.C. 341, 371)

Dated: April 24, 1961.

[SEAL] JOHN L. HARVEY,
Deputy Commissioner
of Food and Drugs.

Wholesale Distributor Stocks of Canned Foods

including Warehouses of Retail Multiunit Organizations
(Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce)

Canned Food	—April 1, 1960—		—April 1, 1961—	
	Canners	Distributors	Canners	Distributors
(thousands of actual cases)				
Vegetables:				
Asparagus.....	1,280	681	1,506	680
Beans, green and wax.....	7,565	3,049	7,601	3,041
Corn.....	12,514	4,372	11,013	3,980
Peas.....	10,067	3,748	7,722	3,654
Sauerkraut.....	1,942	724	2,946	671
Spinach.....	1,900	707	2,067	632
Tomatoes.....	6,459	3,242	7,241	3,197
Tomato catsup, chili sauce.....	13,549	2,474	16,684	2,552
Fruits:				
Apples.....	2,405	427	1,059	440
Appleauce.....	8,447	1,363	9,230	1,359
Apricots.....	1,312	640	3,074	672
Cherries, RSP.....	1,088	461	404	402
Fruit cocktail ^d	7,089	1,660	7,629	1,026
Grapefruit segments.....	2,784	447	2,834	411
Peaches.....	11,012	3,338	12,303	3,310
Pears.....	4,875	1,254	4,880	1,274
Pineapple.....	10,127	1,895	7,545	1,834
Juices:				
Citrus blends.....	1,606	402	825	373
Grapefruit.....	4,247	952	2,428	819
Orange.....	5,252	1,202	4,729	976
Pineapple.....	9,986	952	14,051	1,280
Tomato ^e	15,705	2,305	14,671	2,303
Fish:				
Maine sardines.....	397	252	306	267

* As of March 1. ^b Converted, 10 cases of 24/23½ per barrel. ^c Standard cases, basis 6/10. ^d Includes fruits for salad and mixed fruits (except citrus). ^e Florida only. ^f Hawaii and the Philippines. ^g Includes vegetable juice combinations containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. ^h Standard cases, basis 100/3¼-oz. cans.

1960 Packs of Pie Fillings

(N.C.A. Division of Statistics)

Canned Fruit and Berry Pie Fillings	1959 (actual cases)	1960
Apple.....	1,075,229	1,058,177
Cherry.....	2,030,013	2,159,532
Peach.....	420,429	532,714
Other fruits.....	503,574	421,745
Blueberry.....	599,340	656,113
Other berries.....	257,879	290,428
U. S. Total.....	4,886,464	5,118,700

Other fruits include apricot, apricot-pineapple, french apple, pineapple, prune, raisin, apple-raisin, and rhubarb-strawberry. Mincemeat pie filling is not included.

Other berries include blackberries, boysenberries, huckleberries, raspberries, and strawberries.

New Edition of Briefs Mailed

A number of merchandising findings on sales opportunities for canned foods is presented in *N.C.A. Briefs* No. 7, mailed this week to N.C.A. members and others on the Consumer and Trade Relations list. This publication is the periodical booklet of trade and marketing newsnotes authorized by the N.C.A. C&T.R. Committee as part of its trade program.

The current issue indicates favorable situations for canned foods sales to youth, to families with second homes for vacations or weekend living, and in boating and other outing activities. The "heat and serve" types of canned foods are ideally suited to such use, it is stressed.

Other items give pointers to canned foods salesmen in calling on grocery buyers and enumerate the various qualifications called for in canned foods selling.

The current issue of *Briefs* carries also its regular department summarizing highlights of the C&T.R. Program, including recent work in reaching the consumer through food editors with the canned foods story as carried in the *ABC Book*; promotion of the N.C.A. descriptive labeling program; distribution of *The Case of The Silver Lions*, the brochure citing the profitability of the use of canned foods by institutional operators; and publicity achieved for the winners of the annual Canning Crops Contest.

Mahoney Speaks in Arkansas

Dr. C. H. Mahoney, Director of the N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau, addressed an agricultural seminar at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville May 2 on the subject of the pesticide screen, pesticide residues and production practices which might affect residue problems. He also discussed developments in the production of leafy vegetables and other canning crops which affect yields and particularly quality. The seminar group consisted of Experiment Station personnel in horticulture, botany, plant pathology and agronomy.

That evening Dr. Mahoney gave the address at the annual banquet of Gamma Sigma Delta, an honor society in agriculture. Members of this honor society are selected from the top ten percent scholastically of the seniors and graduate students in the fields of agriculture and home economics. Out-

standing faculty members and outstanding agricultural alumni are also elected to membership. Some of the canners in Arkansas were special guests at this banquet, about 200 people being present. The title of the address was Agricultural Research and Education Requirements Needed for the Further Development of Southern Processing.

Expanding School Market

New lunchrooms in urban school systems now without lunch services are expected by 1963 to expand school food purchases by approximately \$2.5 million annually, according to a report by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA.

The study was made to determine the number, scope, and characteristics of the urban public school systems now without noonday lunch services, and the extent to which school feeding may be initiated in them within three years.

A free copy of the report, *Urban School Systems Without Lunch Services as a Potential Market for Food* (AMS-443), may be obtained from the Information Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington, 25, D. C.

Greater availability of school lunch services plus the rising school population could result in a market for food in schools approximating \$1 billion by 1970 compared with \$600 million in 1957-58, it was said.

N.C.A. Raw Products Research

Members of the Raw Products Research Committee's Steering Committee met at N.C.A. headquarters April 25-26 to discuss their research program for 1961, with W. D. Tyler of Curtice-Burns, Inc., Chairman, presiding. A. C. Moll, Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., Chairman of the Raw Products Committee, also was present.

The two-day meeting included discussion of research projects on vegetable seed planters, seed quality, pea and bean harvesting, tomato mechanical harvesting and variety improvement, vegetable breeding, fruit breeding, mechanical harvesting and handling of fruit, and fruit production problems. Specific assignments with regard to project leaders and R.P.R.C. members to assist in the various projects were made.

In conjunction with the meeting several members of the Steering Committee met with Dr. T. C. Byerly, Deputy Administrator of Farm Research, ARS, USDA, to emphasize the need for intensified research on basic problems in fruit and vegetable production.

Dr. Stier Elected

Dr. Howard L. Stier, Director of the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, recently was elected national director of the American Society for Quality Control, representing District 6.

On April 26 Dr. Stier spoke before the Washington Section of the Institute of Food Technologists. The subject of his talk was "Simplified Statistics for Food Technologists."

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